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NEWS RELEASE

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March 5, 2004

GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENTS

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that eight individuals were indicted on March 5, 2004, by a federal grand jury in Kansas City, Kansas. Those indicted include:

- ! **Pete Monsivais**, 35, El Paso, Texas, and **Robert J. Herrera**, 53, Albuquerque, New Mexico, both in custody, are each charged with one count of possession with the intent to distribute five kilograms or more (11 pounds or more) of cocaine on March 3, 2004, in Leavenworth County, Kansas.

If convicted, each face a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Kansas Highway Patrol and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask.

- ! **Frank Asaro, Jr.**, 55, Kansas City, Missouri, currently in custody, is charged with one count of traveling in interstate commerce from Kansas to Missouri on February 20, 2004, with the intent to violate a protection order issued by the District Court of Johnson County, Kansas.

A complaint filed with the Court alleges that on February 20, 2004, Asaro met an individual at a restaurant in Kansas City, Kansas, actually an undercover police detective, and arranged to pay \$2,000 to have his ex-wife severely beaten and her face cut with a knife. The complaint further alleges that a "Final Protection from Abuse Order" was issued on February 4, 2004, by the District Court of Johnson County, Kansas, ordering Asaro not to abuse, threaten to abuse, harass, molest or in any way contact, either directly or indirectly, his ex-wife.

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If convicted, Asaro faces a maximum of five years in federal prison without parole. Asaro was arrested on February 24, 2004, and made his initial appearance in U.S. District Court on February 25, 2004, he was detained pending trial. The case was investigated by the FBI and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Leon Patton.

- ! **Anthony L. Pinion**, 34, currently in custody, is charged with one count of knowingly escaping from the custody of Correctional Systems, Incorporated, on February 23, 2004, by escaping from a half-way house located in Leavenworth, Kansas, where he was lawfully confined for bank robbery.

If convicted, Pinion faces a maximum of five years in federal prison without parole. Pinion was arrested on February 25, 2004. The case was investigated by the U.S. Marshal's Service.

- ! **Ubaldo Cordova-Delgado**, 27, and **Aldo Munoz-Fierro**, 20, both from Denver, Colorado, both currently in custody, are each charged with one count of being an illegal alien in possession of a firearm on February 22, 2004, in Leavenworth County, Kansas. Cordova-Delgado is also charged with one count of illegal re-entry into the United States.

If convicted, each face a maximum of ten years in federal prison, without parole, for being an illegal alien in possession of a firearm. Cordova-Delgado also faces a maximum of two years for illegal re-entry. The case was investigated by the Bureau of Immigration and Custom Enforcement and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

- ! **Juan Munoz**, 40, Kansas City, Kansas, and **Santos Hernandez-Diaz**, 27, Kansas City, Kansas, both currently in custody, are each charged with conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute 50 grams or more (1.76 ounces or more) of methamphetamine from October 2003 through February 2004; and one count of distributing 50 grams or more (1.76 ounces or more) of methamphetamine on February 20, 2004, all in Wyandotte County, Kansas. **Munoz** is also charged with conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute 500 grams or more (1.1 pounds or more) of methamphetamine between June 1999 and October 2003; conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute 500 grams or more (1.1 pounds or more) of cocaine from June 1999 through October 2003; conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute over 100 kilograms (over 220 pounds) of marijuana from June 1999 through October 2003; and one count of distributing 5 grams or more (.18 ounce or more) of methamphetamine on February 10, 2004, all in Wyandotte County, Kansas. **Hernandez-Diaz** is also charged with five counts of distributing 5 grams or more (.18 ounce or more) of methamphetamine between October 2003 and January 2004 and one count of distributing 50 grams or more (1.76 ounces or more) of methamphetamine on November 24, 2003, all in Wyandotte County, Kansas.

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If convicted, each face a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life in federal prison, without parole, for conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute methamphetamine and for

distributing 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. Munoz also faces a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life for conspiracy to possession with the intent to distribute methamphetamine and a minimum of five years and a maximum of forty years for conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute cocaine and marijuana. Hernandez-Diaz also faces a minimum of five years and a maximum of forty years for each count of distributing 5 grams or more of methamphetamine and a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life for distributing 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the FBI, and the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sheri McCracken.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Indictments filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.